

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs 13, 46, 47, 57, and 61 as follows:

[013] According to still another embodiment of the present invention, the MIB data structure comprises a ~~method name~~ target method ID identifying a selected method associated with the target object and at least one method parameter associated with the selected method.

[046] In the object conduit MIB approach, the MIB becomes a conduit of information. The structure of the data is in the form of target object IDs, ~~method names~~ target method IDs for the target objects, and method parameters. The exact content (values) of the information that is being passed along is known only to the communicating objects and is not known at the MIB level. Logic decisions regarding how to interpret the transmitted information are restricted to the two communicating objects.

[047] According to an advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the object conduit MIB data structure is a structure containing the following major attributes: 1) MIB header fields; 2) object ID; 3) method information; 4) ~~method name~~ target method ID; 5) number of parameters; 6) method parameters; 7) transaction ID; and 8) object notification. An exemplary MIB structure is shown in the Appendix of this application.

[057] Interface controller 365 in SNMP OCMA 360 demarshals the SNMP PDU into an object request, locates the target object in objects 370, and invokes the specified method on the target object with the designated parameter values (message 703). The target object then performs the requested action. In this scenario, the target object also sends a response message back to the source object. The target object sends the source object ID, response ~~method name~~ target method ID, and response parameters to SNMP OCMA 360 (message 704).

[061] In this scenario, the target object sends a response message back to the source object in objects 340. The target object sends the source object ID, response ~~method name~~ target method ID, and response parameters to SNMP OCMA 360 (message 805). Upon receiving this information, interface controller 365 in SNMP OCMA 360 marshals this object request into an SNMP PDU, constructs a notification message (or trap) and forwards the notification message to SNMP master agent 480 (message 806).